(c) the extent to which the heavy use of groundwater shall have an adverse effect on environment and forests in the country; and

(d) the States that have already taken action to use groundwater?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Water being a State subject, suitable legislation for regulation and control of groundwater development has to be enacted by the States/Union Territories. However, in 1970 the Union Government had circulated a "Model Bill to regulate and control the development of groundwater and matters connected therewith" to all the States/ Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of groundwater development. Thereafter, a revised Model Bill was circulated in June, 1996 to all the States/UTs. So far, States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have enacted legislation to regulate the use of groundwater. The States of West Bengal and Karnataka have also passed Bill. However it is yet to be enacted.

(c) and (d) The excessive use of groundwater have resulted in decline in groundwater level in many parts of the country which have adverse effects on various aspects including environment and forests. Water being a State subject, action to augment water supplies and replenishing of groundwater is to be taken by the concerned State Government. The Union Government supplements the efforts made by the State Governments by providing technical and financial assistance in this regard.

Achievements of National Perspective Plan for Linking of Rivers

283. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had mooted a National Perspective Plan for linking various rivers in the country and that National Water Development Agency was set up to carry out studies in this regard;

(b) the estimated outlay for the project;

(c) the estimated expenditure incurred since the setting up of the NWDA (till date);

(d) the achievements made so far; and

(e) the present position of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The tentative cost of the proposed identified links of the National Perspective Plan at 1995-96 price level is put at Rs. 3,30,000 crore.

(c) NWDA is an autonomous society and its expenditure is met through Grants-in-aid released by the Ministry of Water Resources. The total Grants-in-aid released till date is Rs. 10488.42 lakhs.

(d) and (e) National Water Development Agency has completed 137 water balance studies of basins/sub-basins, 71 water balance studies at diversion points, 74 toposheet studies of storage reservoirs, 37 toposheet studies of link alignments and 31 prefeasibility studies of links out of which 30 links have been identified for preparation of feasibility reports. Feasibility reports of five links have been completed.

Implementation of Supreme Court directions on Krishna water dispute

284. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest directions of the Supreme Court over Karnataka/Andhra Pradesh water dispute on Krishna water; and

(b) the action taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The application of the Government of Karnataka before the Supreme Court on the construction by the Government of Andhra Pradesh of the Telugu Ganga and Srisailam Left Bank Canal projects on River Krishna came up for hearing on 8.10.2001 before a two Judge Bench who ordered that since in dealing with this application the interpretation of a judgement of Constitution Bench is required to be gone into, the matter be put up before the Constitution Bench.

Flourine in water in Kolar/Tumkur districts

285. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the alarming level of flourine contents in water in Kolar and some parts of Tumkur districts;